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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

File Argentina mini R

DECONTROL

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

~~Declassify~~ () In Part (X) In Full DECONTROL

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

TO: The Deputy Secretary

FROM: ARA - Terence A. Todman

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Argentine Senator Solari
Yrigoyen - Tuesday, June 28, at 2:30 pmPARTICIPANTSUSThe Deputy Secretary
Fernando E. Rondon, ARA/ECA
(notetaker)
Donald F. Barnes, InterpreterARGENTINASenator Hipolito SOLARI
YRIGOYEN
PHONETIC: soLAHree
eereeeGOzhen
ADDRESSED: SenatorKEY ISSUES1. Issue - Human Rights

U.S. Objectives: The purpose of the meeting is to underline our continuing concern for human rights in Argentina. Senator Kennedy urged you to receive Senator Solari Yrigoyen, who was expelled recently from Argentina after being held for eight months without charges.

Solari Yrigoyen's Objectives: The Senator's principal interest will be to brief you on the situation in Argentina, which he feels could not be much worse. While he holds no brief for the terrorists, whose actions he condemns readily, he is opposed strongly to the government's use of illegal counterviolence.

Essential Factors: Solari Yrigoyen is in the left wing of the democratic Radical Party of Argentina; he is known as a dedicated, courageous advocate of human rights. This advocacy led him to criticize publicly the Argentine government in 1972 after a number of prisoners accused of terrorism were killed at Trelew Prison following a prison

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escape. The Army seems to have tried to get even with Solari Yrigoyen by kidnapping him in September 1976. Another Radical figure, Mario Amaya, was kidnapped at the same time. The ensuing uproar forced the Army to acknowledge it was holding Solari and Amaya, although the latter soon died reportedly of torture. Solari Yrigoyen was better able to withstand the treatment inflicted upon him and was expelled to Venezuela in May. Solari Yrigoyen wanted to go to France, which offered employment, but the Argentine government reportedly threatened to harm his children if he accepted exile in France. A Washington-based human rights organization (the Washington Office on Latin America) invited Solari Yrigoyen to the United States and has arranged several meetings for him with Members of Congress. He is also meeting with officers of ARA, D/HA and the NSC.

POINTS TO BE MADE:

-- We are very pleased to welcome you to the United States and relieved that you are out of prison.

-- We very much hope your children will be able to join you soon.

-- Our readiness to welcome you is one of what I hope are many signs of our support for those who suffer injustice.

-- This Administration is dedicated to the advancement of human rights in the world. The nature of our relationship with other countries will depend to a great extent on the human rights situation in each country.

-- Your government knows how we feel about this subject and what effect it will have on our relations..

-- I want to assure you that we will do all we can responsibly to promote the cause we both believe in.

Attachment:

Biographic Information

SR
Drafted:ARA/ECA:FERondon:jc
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